

Monterey, and is in proper season a fairly frequent inhabitant of the waters just off shore, attaining a length of four or five feet. It is with considerable interest, therefore, that I have recently received information from Dr. C. H. Gilbert, of Stanford University, regarding the occurrence of a much more formidable species, as represented by a single specimen found dead and floating on the surface of Monterey Bay by some of the Monterey fishermen in June, 1911. The monster was brought to shore and dragged up on the wharf, where it was measured by one of the men receiving fish and cast back into the water. He reported that its dimensions, inclusive of the tentacles, were over thirty feet. The animal was in very bad condition, there was no color left, and the epidermis had all sloughed off. Unfortunately, Dr. Gilbert was not at Monterey the particular day that the creature came in and did not himself see the specimen, so no attempt was made to preserve any portions whatever for purposes of identification. Although it would be fatuous to hazard a suggestion as to what species was here represented, we can at least affirm that it was most certainly not *D. gigas*.

Of course newspaper and magazine accounts of off-shore encounters with even more titanic monsters than this one are frequent enough, but from the nature of the case it seems worth while to place even the most meager facts on record whenever any really definite data are to be obtained.

Stanford University, October 8, 1911.

A NEW PLANORBIS FROM MICHIGAN.

FRANK C. BAKER.

Mr. Frank Smith, Associate Professor of Zoology of the Illinois State University, recently submitted some molluscan material for identification, collected in Douglas Lake, Cheboygan county, Michigan. Among the Planorbis is one form which seems to have been unnoticed, and which is easily separable from all other forms. It may be described as follows:

PLANORBIS CAMPANULATUS SMITHII nov. var.

Shell discoidal, solid, the aperture sinistral; periostracum light

horn colored, frequently stained reddish from the iron oxide in the water; surface shining, lines of growth very heavy, more or less rib-like, equidistant; spiral lines absent or very faint; whorls $4\frac{1}{2}$, closely coiled; spire flat, or a little convex, all but the last whorl coiled in the same plane; umbilicus wide and deep, somewhat funnel-shaped, exhibiting two and one-half whorls; the whorls are sharply carinated above and below, the last whorl being particularly so marked; this carination of the whorls causes a flattening of the periphery; the last whorl at a point about midway suddenly bends upward, causing the aperture to be elevated half the diameter of the whorl above the spire, and also causing the umbilicus to form a crater-like contour when viewed laterally; aperture campanulate, wider below and angled above; the sutures are distinctly marked, even channeled in some specimens; outer lip sharp; inner lip appressed to body whorl, which is covered with a callus.

Height of last whorl	Greatest diameter	Least diameter	Aperture height	Aperture breadth
9.00	17.00	12.50	9.00	6.50
8.50	16.75	13.50	8.50	8.50
8.00	15.00	11.75	7.00	6.00
7.50	18.00	13.50	8.50	8.00

This was at first thought to be Dall's *rudentis*, but by a comparison with his description¹ and with specimens believed to be authentic, it was seen to be quite different. The spire of *rudentis* is flat and *elevated* above the last whorl, forming, as observed by Dall, an aspect like a miniature coiled hawser. In *smithii* the spire is depressed and more or less funnel-shaped. In *rudentis* the last whorl is *deflected*, being on a plane or a trifle below the base of the shell, while in *smithii* the last whorl is elevated far above the plane of the spire. The umbilical region is also very different in *smithii*. The sharply carinated whorls also afford a striking difference. Typical *campanulatus* is smaller, the whorls are usually coiled in the same plane and the whorls are rounded and not sharply angulated. *P. smithii* was at first thought to be a good species, but the presence of the typical form in the lake, which shows marked variation toward the *smithii* type, leads to its restriction as a strongly marked variety.

¹ Alaska Moll., p. 90.

Over 200 specimens of the new variety have been examined and its novelty seems constant. Both *rudentis* and *smithii* represent extremes of variation of a common type. It is named in honor of Professor Frank Smith, who collected the specimens.

NOTES.

POLYGYRA CLARKII BRADLEYI n. var. Similar to typical *clarkii*, but lacks the basal tooth. It has the base malleate but without strong radial sculpture.

Alt. 10.5, diam. 14 mm.

Locality: Black Rock Mt., Rabun Co., Georgia. Type in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences, no. 104800. Named in honor of the collector, Dr. J. Chester Bradley. Figured on plate VIII, to appear next month.

E. G. VANATTA.

MAINE PEARLS.—Fresh-water pearls are obtained in Maine, as far as I know, exclusively from *Margaritana margaritifera* Linné. Eight or nine years ago this noble mollusk was abundant in the small streams about my home at Buckfield, Maine; but its numbers have since been regrettably thinned by the ravages of pearl-hunters. Probably, however, it will not be exterminated, since some individuals will remain in hidden and inaccessible situations.

I have found pearls rather copiously while collecting large mature shells for specimens; but most of them were dull or leaden-colored. The largest shells found exceeded six inches in length.

I recently conversed with a carpenter of Turner, Maine, who has hunted pearls in his spare time. He did not destroy the clams indiscriminately, as is done by the more ignorant and reckless pearl-hunters, but only opened those which indicated by some external malformation the probable presence of a pearl. He said that many of the clams lived buried completely below the surface. These were imbedded in the sand at the bottom of the brook and covered by a layer of mud of vegetable origin perhaps six inches thick.

He found one very large and fine pearl, spherical, "about as big as a marble," in a conspicuously deformed shell. This brought him \$400, and it may be presumed that the ultimate purchaser paid a considerably larger sum for it.—JOHN A. ALLEN.